DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 139 457 JC 770 277

TITLE	Abstract of the ACT Class Profile for 1976-77 Freshmen Enrolled in Illinois Public Community Colleges. Volume IV, Number 9.
INSTITUTION	Illinois Community Coll. Board, Springfield.
NOTE	38p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$2.06 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Academic Aspiration; Achievement Tests; College Choice; *College Freshmen; Community Colleges; Comparative Analysis; Educational Objectives; Family Income; Grade Point Average; Grades (Scholastic); *Junior Colleges; Minority Groups; National Norms; Occupational Choice; *Student Characteristics; Student Needs
IDENTIFIERS	*American College Test; *Illinois

ABSTRACT

This document contains a summary descriptive analysis of a sample of 21,123 students who took the American College Test (ACT) and were enrolled as freshmen in the public community colleges of Illinois during the fall 1976 term. The sample of students represented 12% of the total freshmen and 40% of the full-time freshman students. Data indicated: (1) the ACT composite score for the sample was 16.9 and their average high school grade point average (GPA) was 2.6; (2) the ACT scores and high school GPA's of the students in the sample were lower than the national norms, reflecting the community college open admissions policy; (3) 53% indicated they planned to apply for financial assistance and 57% anticipated working while in college; (4) 32% planned to obtain a two-year degree, 7% aspired to obtain a less than two-year certificate and 56% aspired to a baccalaureate degree or higher; (5) health and business/commerce professions tied in popularity as the first vocational choices (18%) of the community college freshmen; and (6) 47% cited "field of study" as the single most important factor in making their college choice, while 22% cited tuition cost and 19% cited location. Thirteen tables of data present state and national comparisons of selected student characteristics. (JDS)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED139457

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

ABSTRACT OF THE ACT CLASS PROFILE FOR 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD
509 ILES PARK PLACE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62718
PHONE: (217) 782-2495

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 9

D-350

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

HUGH D. HAMMERSLAG, Chairman	Rockford	1981
TOUSSAINT L. HALE, Vice-Chairman	Chicago	1977
FRANK F. FOWLE	Northfield	1977
PAUL B. HANKS	Hardin	1981
VIVIAN MEDAK	Lincolnwood	1981
JAMES W. SANDERS	Marion	1977
SHARON SHARP	Arlington Heights	1979
LILA B. TEER	East St. Louis	1979
JOSEPH M. CRONIN (IOE) - Ex Officio (Represented by John W. Goudy)	Springfield	
DENNIS W. TRUELSEN (Non-Voting Student Member)	Elgin Comm. Coll.	1977 (June)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Director:
FRED L. WELLMAN

Associate Directors:

G. ROBERT DARNES	- Academic, Student & Community Services
RICHARD L. FOX	- Administration and Governmental Services
JAMES M. HOWARD	- Budget Office
IVAN J. LACH	- Planning and Research Office
WILLIAM G. MATLACK	- Accounting Office

Assistant Directors:

PAUL R. CAMP	- Data Base Manager
CAROLYN McIVER	- Student & Community Services
NANCY MICKELSON	- Capital Projects
ROBERT M. ROSS	- Auditor
PEGGY SHEERIN	- Research
GUS SKEADAS	- Fiscal Analyst
JANET L. STROUD	- Career Programs

Legal Counsel:
DONALD D. ZEGLIS

Deputy Director and Acting President at State Community College of East St. Louis:
ROSETTA D. WHEADON

Dean of Administrative Services at State Community College of East St. Louis:
DONALD CHILDERS

ABSTRACT OF THE ACT CLASS PROFILE FOR 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE	iii
HIGHLIGHTS	iv
INTRODUCTION	1
COMPARISON OF AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1976 FRESHMEN WITH NATIONAL NORMS	2
SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL GRADES OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN COMPARED TO NATIONAL NORMS	4
AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES	6
DISTRIBUTION OF ACT SCORES AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADES OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN	9
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS	10
EDUCATIONAL DEGREE ASPIRATIONS	12
RACIAL ETHNIC BACKGROUND BY INCOME LEVEL	14
EDUCATIONAL MAJORS AND VOCATIONAL CHOICES	14
WHY STUDENTS CHOSE THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	18
ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME OF FALL 1976 ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN	19
FINANCIAL AID NEEDS	21

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 1	A Comparison of Average ACT Scores of Illinois Public Community College Fall 1976 Freshmen With National Norms	2
Table 2	Self-Reported High School Grades for 1976-77 Freshmen Enrolled in Illinois Public Community Colleges as Indicated on ACT Profile	3
Table 3	Mean ACT Standard Scores of 1976-77 Freshmen Enrolled in Illinois Public Community Colleges	6
Table 4	Comparison of the Distribution of ACT Composite Scores of Illinois Community College Fall 1976 Freshmen with All Enrolled Freshmen in the ACT National Sample	9
Table 5	Comparison of the Percentage of Illinois Community College Fall 1976 Freshmen in Various High School Grade Categories with All National College Bound Students	9
Table 6	Special Educational Needs Reported by 1976-77 Freshmen Enrolled in Illinois Public Community Colleges	10
Table 7	Special Educational Needs Reported by Freshmen Enrolled in Illinois Public Community Colleges from 1972 Through 1976	10
Table 8	Educational Degree Aspirations of Illinois Public Community College Fall 1976 Freshmen	12
Table 9	Percentage Distributions of Racial/Ethnic Classification by Income Level	14
Table 10	Planned Educational Majors and Vocational Choice Fields of Illinois Community College Freshmen Compared to National Sample College and University Freshmen	15
Table 11	Comparison of Single Most Important Factor in Making College Choice by Fall 1976 Freshmen as Compared to Fall 1974 and Fall 1975 Freshmen in Illinois Public Community Colleges on ACT Profile	18
Table 12	Estimated Family Income of 1976-77 Freshmen Enrolled in Illinois Public Community Colleges as Indicated on the Act Profile	19
Table 13	Comparison of Financial Aid Needs and Work Expectations of Illinois Public Community College 1975 Freshmen with 1976 Freshmen as Indicated on the ACT Profile	21

PREFACE

Studies on the characteristics of community college students are of particular interest to the local colleges, the Illinois Community College Board, and to other state agencies. For this reason, during the last four years, the ICCB has made arrangements to purchase the American College Testing (ACT) data for students enrolled in Illinois public community colleges. This data will serve as a part of the Student Characteristics Subsystem of the new Management Information System at the ICCB. Data that is available from outside sources is relatively inexpensive to obtain and saves the local institutions much time and effort in providing this data for their students.

The primary use of the ACT profile of students enrolled in Illinois public community colleges is to enable the local community colleges to compare the characteristics of their students with the characteristics of other community college students in the state rather than with college and university students. The characteristics of community college students are distinctly different from those of university students. For example, the community college students have lower average ACT scores overall, different special educational needs, different educational aspirations, and different reasons for going to college than students attending senior institutions. The ICCB does not require all community college students in Illinois to take the ACT test nor do all colleges require the ACT test, although it is the most common used entrance test in the state. ICCB policies do require the colleges to screen students that are allowed entry into baccalaureate-oriented curricula to ensure that they have ability and competence similar to that possessed by students admitted to Illinois public universities. Many community colleges use the ACT test and high school grade point average as two of the basic criteria for this purpose.

Although the reader may wish to use the entire ACT Class Profile Report of 1976-77 Illinois public community college freshmen for detailed study and comparison, this abstract is prepared to give a brief over-view of the highlights contained in that report and to provide a comparison of the characteristics of Illinois community college students with state and national norms. The format presented in this abstract might also serve as a model for a brief profile of student characteristics at the local community college. A copy of the entire ACT Class Profile Report is being mailed to the Director of Institutional Research at each community college. Persons who wish to study this report but do not have one available may use the copies on file at the ICCB Office. Copies of the ACT Class Profile Report for the years 1973, 1974, and 1975 are also available in the ICCB Office and in each community college library.

Ivan J. Lach
Associate Director
Planning and Research

Peggy L. Sheerin
Assistant Director
for Research

Fred L. Wellman
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACT CLASS PROFILE

The highlights listed below identify the characteristics of 21,123 students who took the American College Testing Program (ACT) and enrolled as freshmen during the Fall 1976 term at an Illinois public community college. This represents 12% of the total freshmen and 40% of the full-time freshmen students.

1. This report showed that the average ACT composite score for Illinois public community college freshmen who took the ACT test was 16.9 and their average high school grade point average was 2.6 (C+). The average score on the various tests were as follows: English 16.4, Mathematics 15.5, Social Studies 15.8, and Natural Science 19.3.

2. The comparison of average ACT scores and high school grade averages of Illinois public community college Fall 1976 freshmen with national norms for all college freshmen shows that national norms are higher than the average ACT scores and high school grade averages of Illinois public community college students. This reflects the fact that the public community colleges have open admission policies rather than selective admission which is often based on a minimum ACT score and high school grade average at most four-year institutions.

3. In comparing ACT scores and high school grade averages of Illinois public community college students since 1972, we note that average ACT scores have decreased each year from 18.0 for Fall 1973 freshmen to 16.9 for Fall 1976 freshmen while the average high school grades have been increasing each year.

4. Over one-half (53%) of all community college freshmen taking the ACT test indicated that they would apply for financial aid assistance with 57% indicating they expected to work while in college and would like some assistance in locating employment.

5. Community college freshmen who took the ACT test indicated a need for assistance in choosing a major (45%), for improving math skills (48%), for improving study skills (40%), for improving reading skills (37%), and for personal counseling (33%).

6. Illinois public community college Fall 1975 freshmen who took the ACT test expressed the following educational degree aspirations: 32% of the students aspired to obtain a two-year degree, 7% aspired to obtain a certificate of less than two years in length, while 56% of the students aspired to a bachelor's degree or higher.

7. Health and business/commerce professions tied in popularity as the first vocational choices (18%) of the Illinois public community college freshmen taking the ACT test. These two fields were also selected as the most often planned educational majors.

8. The single most important factor in making a college choice by the Fall 1976 freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges who took the ACT test was "Field of Study" which was selected by 47% of the students. Other factors which were often indicated as being the most important were: tuition cost (22%), location (19%), and type of institution (9%).

INTRODUCTION

The American College Testing Program (ACT) is probably the most widely used testing program by colleges and universities in the Midwest for admission, placement, and counseling purposes. Although many public community colleges in Illinois do not require the ACT test for admission, it is the most often used standardized national test in Illinois community colleges. In addition, many high school students take the ACT test during their junior or senior year in high school prior to deciding which college they want to attend and hence, their scores are available even if the college does not require them for admission. For these reasons, we would expect the sample in this ACT profile to represent primiarily full-time students directly out of high school more so than students who are older and have enrolled in the community college. The data in the ACT Class Profile verifies these conclusions. For example, 84% of the Illinois community college students taking the ACT test were 18 or 19 years old during 1976, 75% were full-time students, and 85% planned to attend college during the day.

This report includes data for 21,123 students who took the ACT test and are enrolled as freshmen in the public community colleges of Illinois during the Fall 1976 term. The 21,123 students represents 12% of the total freshmen enrollment and approximately 40% of the full-time freshmen enrollments in the community colleges. Hence, the characteristics presented in this report represent only those community college students who took the ACT test and cannot be generalized to all community college students.

Individual student ACT data is a very useful tool for academic counseling, class placement, and assessing needed special services. This data becomes even more useful when compared to the college's ACT Class Profile. The Class Profile is a very useful tool for describing the student characteristics at a given college and for assessing the needs for various types of services that may be indicated. For example, the Class Profile is a very valuable source of data for admissions, financial aid, placement, counseling, student activities, and instructional programs. Again, this data becomes more useful when statewide community college norms are available. This is one of the purposes of the State Composite ACT Class Profile for Illinois Community College Students.

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1976 FRESHMEN WITH NATIONAL NORMS

Table 1 below shows a comparison of average ACT scores of Illinois public community college Fall 1976 freshmen who took the ACT test with averages obtained by all university and college bound students in the United States who took the ACT test during 1976-77. This data shows that the average ACT scores of Illinois community college freshmen were slightly lower than for the national sample of all freshmen enrolled at colleges and universities in the United States. This data is not at all surprising but simply reflects the fact that the public community colleges of Illinois have "open admission" policies and do not select students on the basis of admission test scores (often the ACT test) as do many four-year colleges and universities. The Illinois public community college freshmen mean and standard deviation are surprisingly close to the national averages of the 10% sample reported below.

TABLE 1

A COMPARISON OF AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1976 FRESHMEN WITH NATIONAL NORMS

ACT Test	Illinois Community College Enrolled Freshmen		National College Enrolled Freshmen	
	Mean	Stan. Dev.	Mean	Stan. Dev.
English	16.4	5.2	17.6	5.4
Mathematics	15.5	7.3	17.8	7.8
Social Science	15.8	7.0	17.4	7.5
Natural Science	19.3	6.0	20.9	6.6
Composite	16.9	5.3	18.5	6.0
No. of Students	21,123		48,808*	

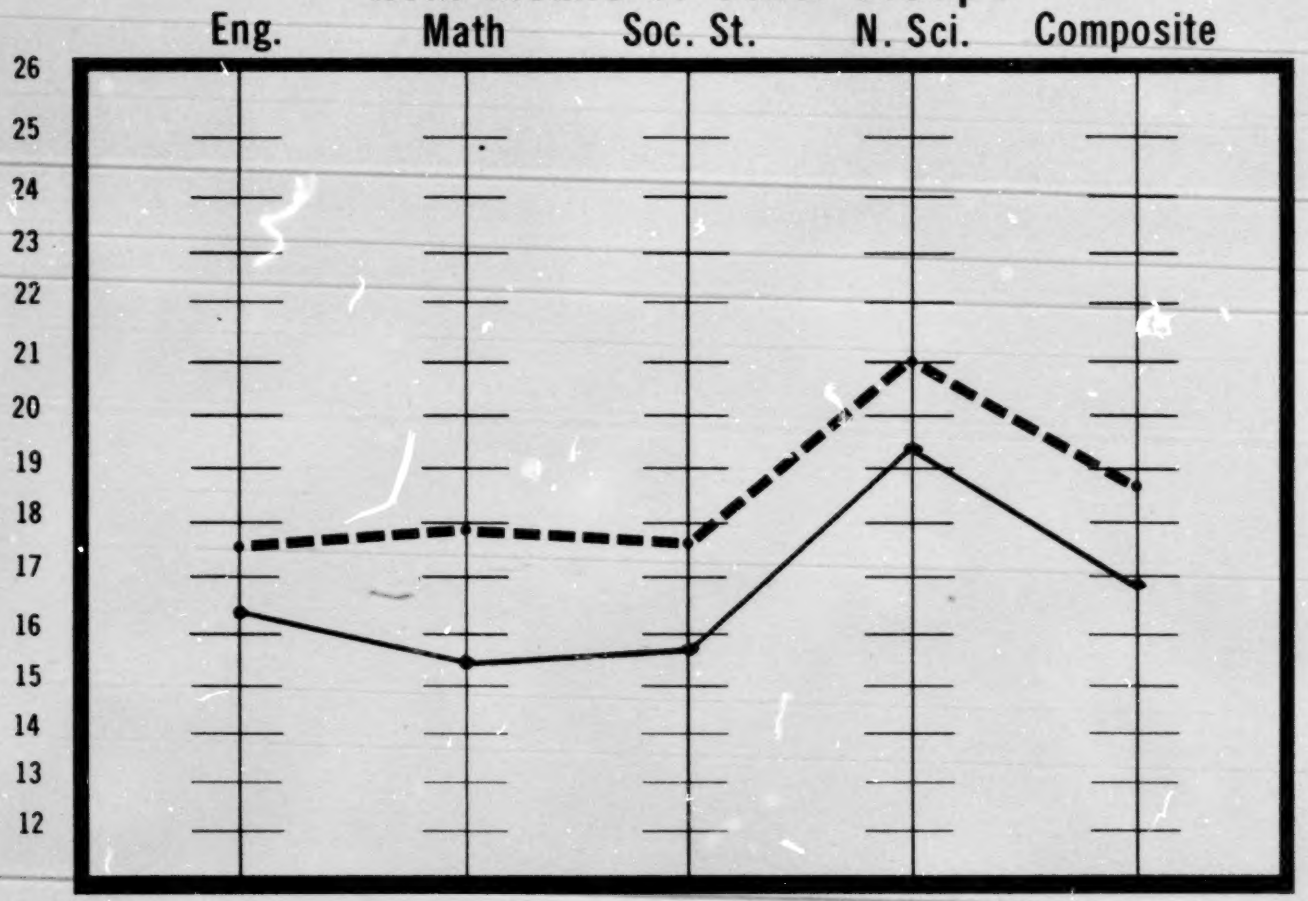
Stan. Dev. = Standard Deviation. t-test was significant. ACT score range = 1-36

The chart on the opposite page illustrates the comparison of the average ACT test scores of Illinois community college freshmen with national norms for all two-year and four-year college and university freshmen.

Each local community college also receives a similar chart with the local college scores marked.

*Represents 10% national sample.

Comparison of the Mean ACT Scores with Means of Other Groups



	Eng.	Math	Soc. St.	N. Sci.	Composite
National Mean:	17.6	17.8	17.4	20.9	18.5
Ill.Comm.Coll. State Mean:	16.4	15.5	15.8	19.3	16.9
Local Mean:					

National: ▬ ▬ ▬ State: ——— Local:

CHART 1

Source: Local - Table 1.1; State - Table 1.1

SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL GRADES OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN COMPARED TO NATIONAL NORMS

Another measure of academic ability that is reported in the ACT Class Profile Report is the self reported high school grades. Although these are self-reported grades which tend to vary from actual grades received in certain cases, studies have shown them to be fairly reliable when used with large samples. Table 2 shows the average high school grades in the subject areas listed for the Fall 1976 freshmen who took the ACT test. Of particular interest is the fact that women in this report had higher high school grades than did men; however, men scored higher on the ACT tests than did the women.

TABLE 2

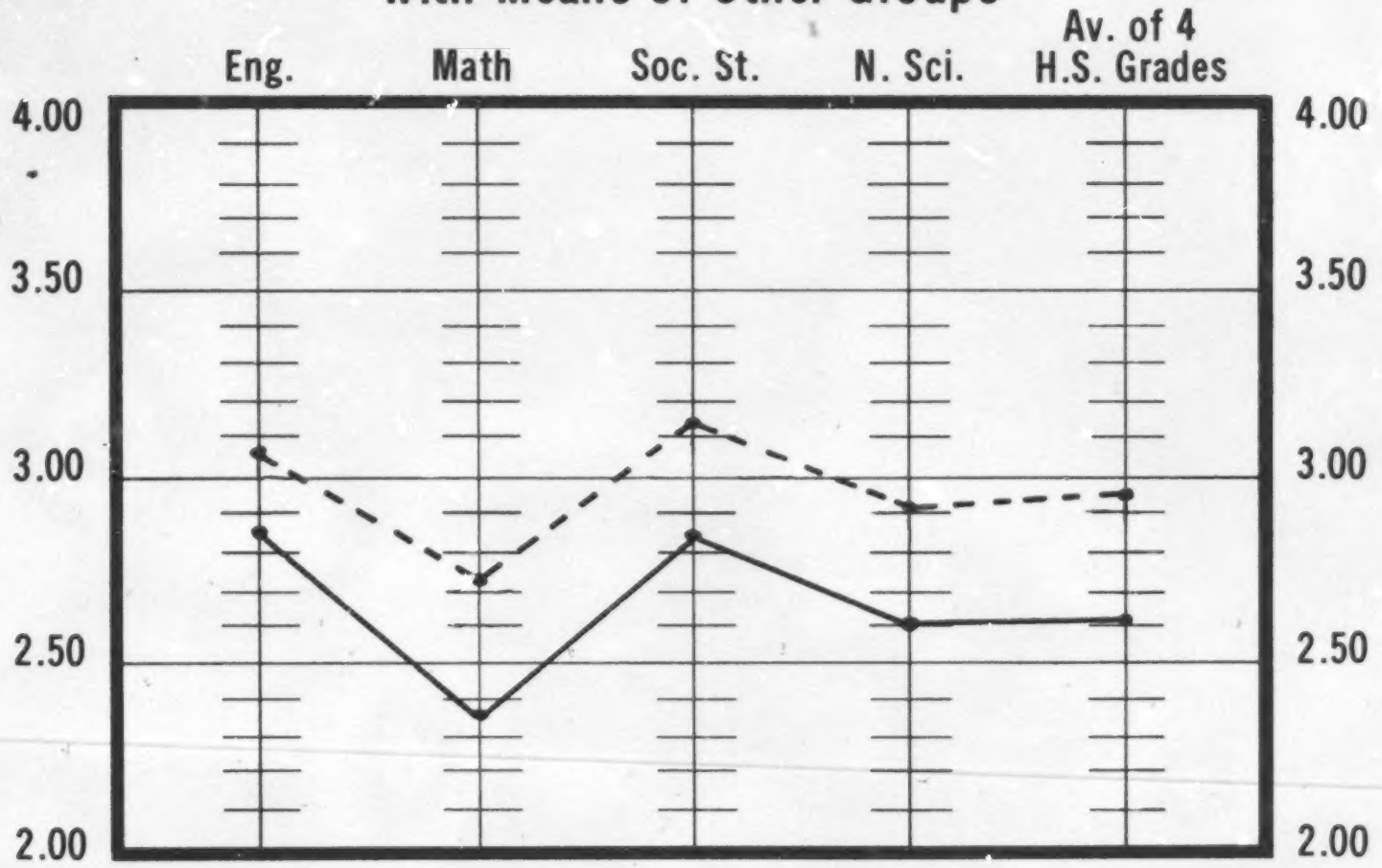
SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL GRADES FOR 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES AS INDICATED ON ACT PROFILE

	Men	Women	Total
High School English Grades	2.53*	2.93*	2.75*
High School Mathematics Grades	2.27	2.45	2.36
High School Social Studies Grades	2.64	2.81	2.73
High School Natural Science Grades	2.51	2.67	2.60
Average for the 4 High School Grades	2.48	2.72	2.61

*Mean Grade Point Average based on a 4 point scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1)

The chart on the opposite page shows a comparison of average (mean) high school grades by subject area of Illinois community college students with national norms. The data shows that Illinois community college freshmen have significantly lower high school grade averages than all college and university freshmen in the nation who take the ACT test.

Comparison of the Mean High School Grades with Means of Other Groups



	Eng.	Math	Soc. St.	N. Sci.	Av. of 4 H.S. Grades
National Mean:	3.07	2.72	3.13	2.91	2.95
Ill. Comm. Coll. State Mean:	2.75	2.36	2.73	2.60	2.61
Local Mean:					

National: - - - State: ——— Local:

CHART 2

Source: Local - Tables 1.5 & 1.6; State - Tables 1.5 & 1.6

AVERAGE ACT SCORES OF 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Table 3 below shows the average American College Testing (ACT) scores on the various subtests for the freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges during the Fall 1976 term who took the ACT test. The standard scores on the ACT tests range from a highest possible score of 36 to a low of 1. The national average score for each of the ACT tests is around 18 although it varies slightly among the subtests and from year to year. The data in Table 3 is presented separately for men and women because there is a marked difference on some of the subtest averages for these two groups. Men obtained higher average scores in natural science, mathematics and social sciences while women obtained higher scores in English. Table 3 provides statewide data for Illinois public community college students which is very useful for local use in analyzing the ACT class profile. The comparison at the local level should take careful consideration about the sample of students who take the ACT tests at the local college. In some cases, when only students to a few select programs are required to take the ACT test, the comparison with state norms may not be too meaningful.

TABLE 3

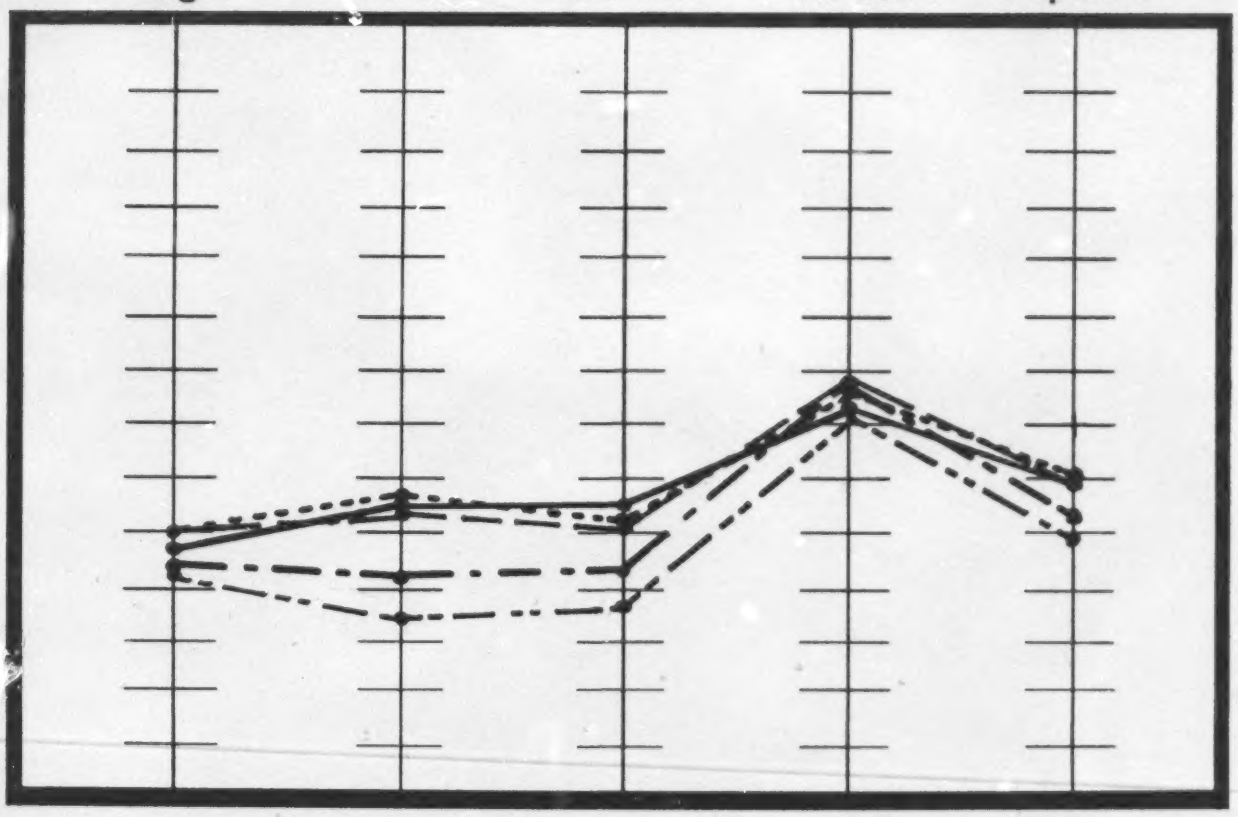
MEAN ACT STANDARD SCORES* OF 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ACT TEST	Men	Women	Total
English	15.5	17.2	16.4
Mathematics	16.8	14.4	15.5
Social Studies	16.6	15.0	15.8
Natural Sciences	20.1	18.6	19.3
Composite	17.4	16.4	16.9
Number of Students	9,912	11,211	21,123

*ACT Scores Range from a High of 36 to a Low of 1.

The charts on the next two pages show an anlysis of the average ACT scores and self-reported high school grades for Illinois public community college freshmen from 1972 through 1976. This analysis shows that the average high school grades of these students have been increasing slightly each year. It is uncertain whether the cause of this increase is more achievement on the part of the students or easier grading on the part of the teachers. The average ACT scores, on the other hand, have been decreasing each year since 1973. This decrease in test scores on college entrance exams has received much attention in the news media and in educational journals.

Year-to-Year Changes in ACT Standard Scores



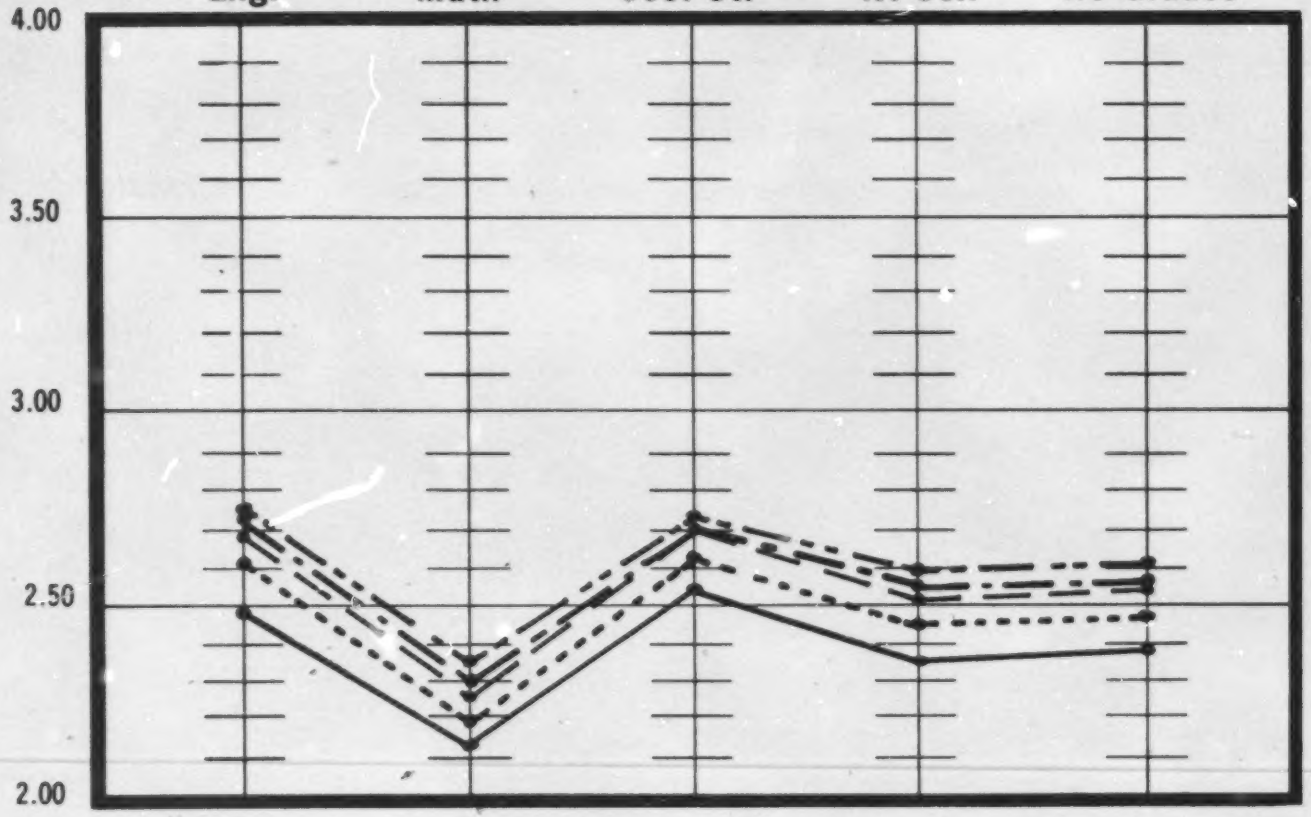
	Eng.	Math	Soc. St.	N. Sci.	Composite
1972-73	16.8	17.5	17.5	19.3	17.9
1973-74	17.0	17.6	17.3	19.5	18.0
1974-75	17.0	17.4	17.1	19.8	17.9
1975-76	16.5	16.2	16.3	19.6	17.3
1976-77	16.4	15.5	15.8	19.3	16.9

Key:

CHART 3

Source: Local Table 7.1

Year-to-Year Changes in High School Grades



	Eng.	Math	Soc. St.	N. Sci.	Av. of 4 HS Grades	Key:
1972-73	2.49	2.12	2.54	2.36	2.39	———
1973-74	2.61	2.19	2.62	2.45	2.48	- - - - - -
1974-75	2.69	2.26	2.70	2.51	2.54	— —
1975-76	2.72	2.30	2.70	2.55	2.57	— - —
1976-77	2.75	2.36	2.73	2.60	2.61	-- —--

CHART 4

Source: Local - Table 7.1

DISTRIBUTION OF ACT SCORES AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADES OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Table 4 shows a comparison of the distribution of ACT composite scores of Illinois community college Fall 1976 freshmen with national norms. This analysis shows that a substantial percentage of the Fall 1976 freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges had very high academic ability as measured by the ACT test. For example, 2% of these students had ACT scores in the 28 to 36 range, 11% in the 24 to 27 range and 19% in the 20 to 23 range. This accounts for 32% of the Fall 1976 freshmen in the ACT profile who were enrolled in Illinois public community colleges and indicates that these students could have been admitted to most four-year colleges but chose instead to enroll at a community college.

TABLE 4

COMPARISON OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF ACT COMPOSITE SCORES OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1976 FRESHMEN WITH ALL ENROLLED FRESHMEN IN THE ACT NATIONAL SAMPLE

ACT Standard Score	Ill. Pub. Comm. Coll. Enrolled Fall 1975 Freshmen	National College Enrolled Freshmen
28-36	2%	6%
24-27	11%	18%
20-23	19%	21%
16-19	25%	22%
12-15	25%	19%
-11	18%	14%

Table 5 below shows a distribution of the students among the various grade categories. This analysis shows what percentage of the Fall 1976 Illinois community college freshmen had high school grades in each of the grade categories and revealed that 62% of these students had high school grade averages of A or B with an additional 35% having a C grade average. Only 3% of the Fall 1976 Illinois Community College freshmen reported a high school grade average of a D.

TABLE 5

COMPARISON OF THE PERCENTAGE OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1976 FRESHMEN IN VARIOUS HIGH SCHOOL GRADE CATEGORIES WITH ALL NATIONAL COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

Grade Point Average	Typical Grade	Ill. Comm. Coll Enrolled Freshmen	All National Coll. Enrolled Students
3.50 - 4.00	A	13%	29%
2.50 - 3.49	B	49%	50%
1.50 - 2.49	C	35%	20%
0.50 - 1.49	D	3%	1%
0.00 - 0.49	F	0%	0%

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Table 6 below shows the special educational needs that were indicated by the community college freshmen on the ACT profile. Of particular interest is the large percentage of students who indicate need for assistance in choosing a major (45%), for improving math skills (48%) and for improving study skills (40%). These special educational needs indicate a special need in the community colleges for adequate counseling services and developmental programs. The chart in the next page shows how these special needs of community college freshmen compare with national norms.

TABLE 6

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS REPORTED BY 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Special Assistance Needed In:	Men	Women	Total
Choosing a Major	46%	44%	45%
Improving Reading Skills	39%	35%	37%
Improving Math Skills	46%	50%	48%
Improving Study Skills	43%	36%	40%
Improving Writing Skills	28%	28%	28%
Personal Counseling	33%	33%	33%

Table 7 below shows an analysis of the special education needs of freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges who took the ACT test from 1972 through 1976. This analysis shows that the percentage of students who indicated a need for improving math skills increased during the past year while the percentage of students indicating a need for a special assistance in other areas decreased from last year. It is uncertain whether this increase is caused by a shift in needs or by a change in the sample of the students who take the ACT test.

TABLE 7

SPECIAL EUDCATIONAL NEEDS REPORTED BY FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES FROM 1972 THROUGH 1976

Special Assistance Needed In:	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Choosing a Major	41%	38%	39%	44%	45%
Improving Reading Skills	36%	30%	32%	39%	37%
Improving Math Skills	52%	51%	54%	56%	48%
Improving Study Skills	47%	40%	40%	43%	40%
Improving Writing Skills	42%	40%	34%	29%	28%

Percent of Students with Special Educational Needs

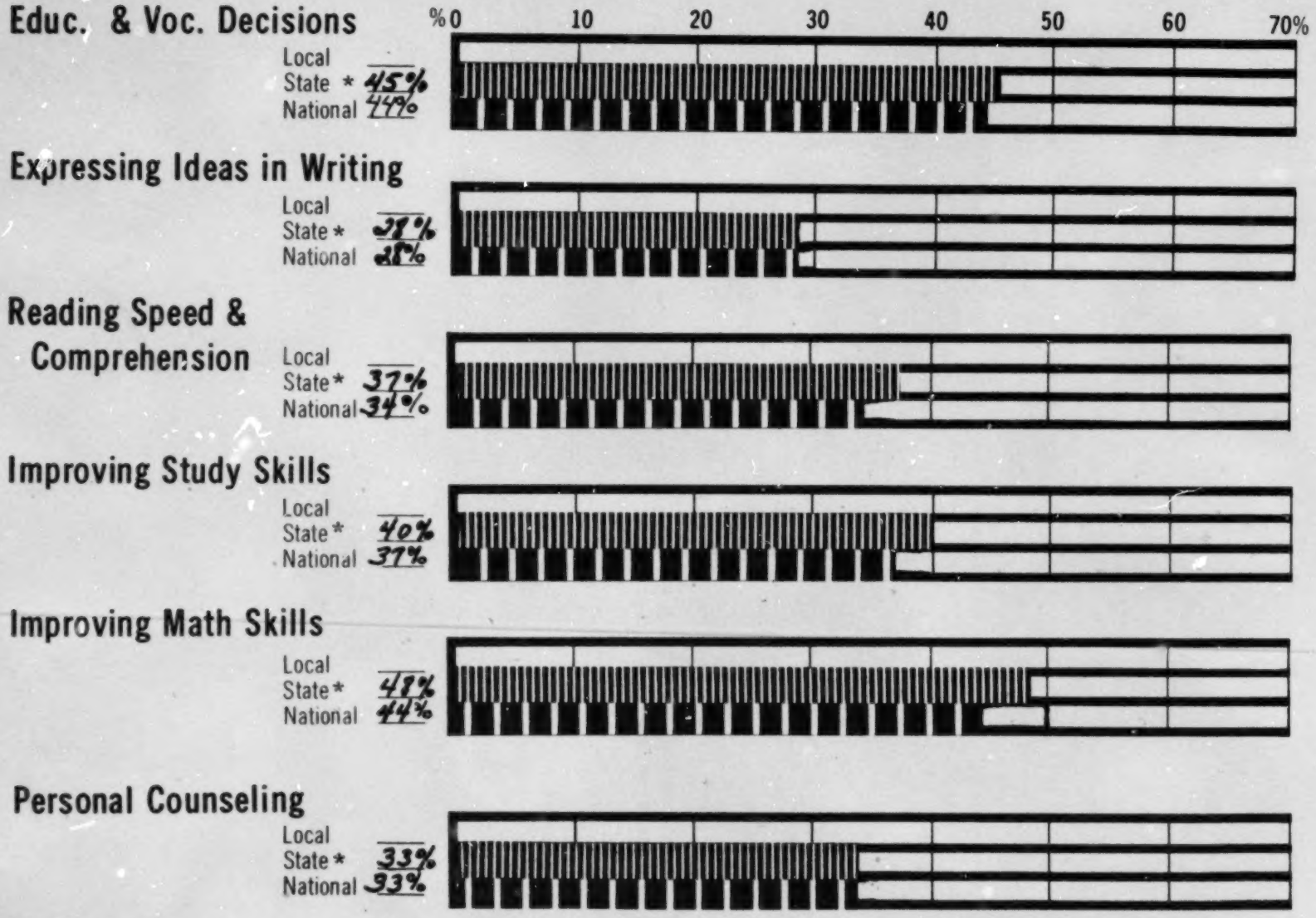


CHART 5

Source: Local - Table 4.2; State - Table 4.3

*Illinois Community College State Composite

EDUCATIONAL DEGREE ASPIRATIONS

Table 8 below shows the educational degree aspirations of Illinois public community college Fall 1976 freshmen who took the ACT test. The categories shown on the ACT profile represent the highest degree aspirations and do not provide for the step by step progress that many students make in completing first a two-year college degree, then a bachelor's degree, and often later, an advanced degree. Hence, the data shows 30% of the students aspire to obtain a two-year degree, 6% aspire to obtain a certificate of less than two years in length while 59% of the students aspire a bachelor's degree or higher. This data does not show the great need for short term programs which are in demand by part-time adult students in the public community colleges because the ACT sample is composed primarily of full-time students directly out of high school.

TABLE 8

EDUCATIONAL DEGREE ASPIRATIONS OF
ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL 1976 FRESHMEN

	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL	NATIONAL SAMPLE
Vocational or Technical Program (Less than Two Years)	5%	6%	6%	3%
Two-Year College Degree	24%	35%	30%	13%
Bachelor's Degree	43%	37%	40%	44%
One or Two Years of Graduate Study (MA, MBA, Etc.)	11%	8%	9%	17%
Professional Level Degree (Ph.D, MD, LLB, or JD)	12%	8%	10%	19%
Other	6%	5%	6%	5%

The chart on the next page shows a comparison of the educational degree aspirations of Illinois community college freshmen taking the ACT test with national norms. Of particular interest is the great diversity of degree aspiration of community college students.

Educational Degree Aspirations

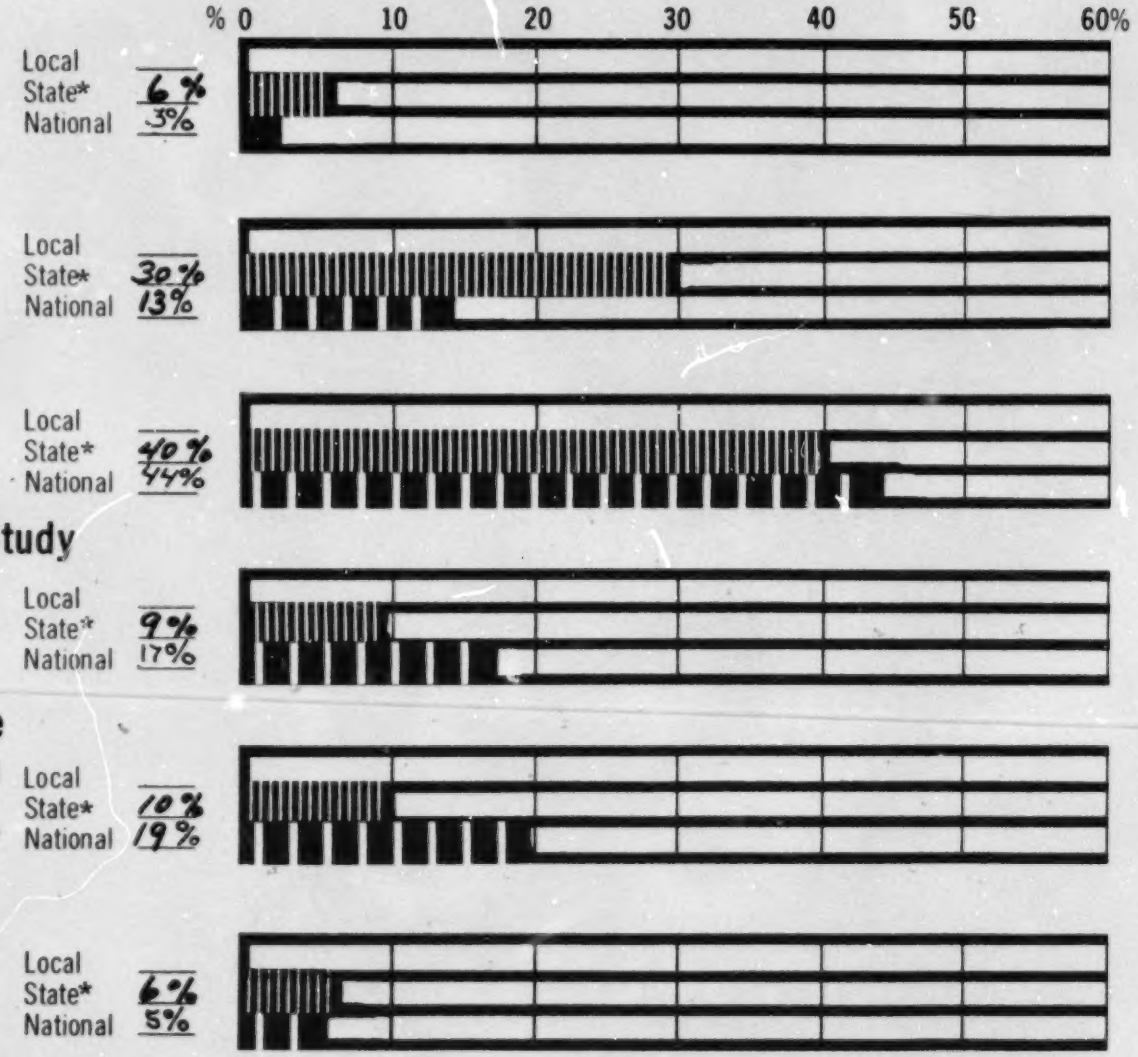


CHART 6

*Illinois Community College State Composite

Source: Local - Table 3.2; State - Table 3.2

RACIAL ETHNIC BACKGROUND BY INCOME LEVEL

Table 9 below shows a distribution of Fall 1976 Illinois Community College Freshmen who took the ACT test by racial ethnic background and income level. This table shows clearly the relationship between minority racial/ethnic background and low income level. In comparison to data received on the ICCB enrollment reports a much smaller percentage of minority groups take the ACT test. For example, Afro-Americans make up over 17% of the enrollment in Illinois public community colleges but only 5% of those taking the ACT test.

TABLE 9

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTIONS OF RACIAL/ETHNIC CLASSIFICATION BY INCOME LEVEL

	Under $3000	$3000-5999	$6000-7499	$7500-8999	$9000-11999	$12000-14999	$15000-19999	$20000-Over	Total Number	Total %
Afro-American	20%	25%	13%	11%	14%	8%	5%	4%	700	5%
Amer. Indian	8	5	5	9	16	20	19	19	129	1
Caucasian Amer.	3	5	4	6	15	22	23	23	10606	80
Mexican Amer.	5	11	8	7	22	20	18	9	167	1
Oriental Amer.	1	10	7	21	19	16	14	11	70	1
Spanish Amer.	10	27	14	10	12	15	9	4	105	1
Other	6	9	6	8	15	20	20	16	451	3
Prefer not to respond	6%	8%	5%	6%	18%	19%	21%	18%	1032	8%

EDUCATIONAL MAJORS AND VOCATIONAL CHOICES

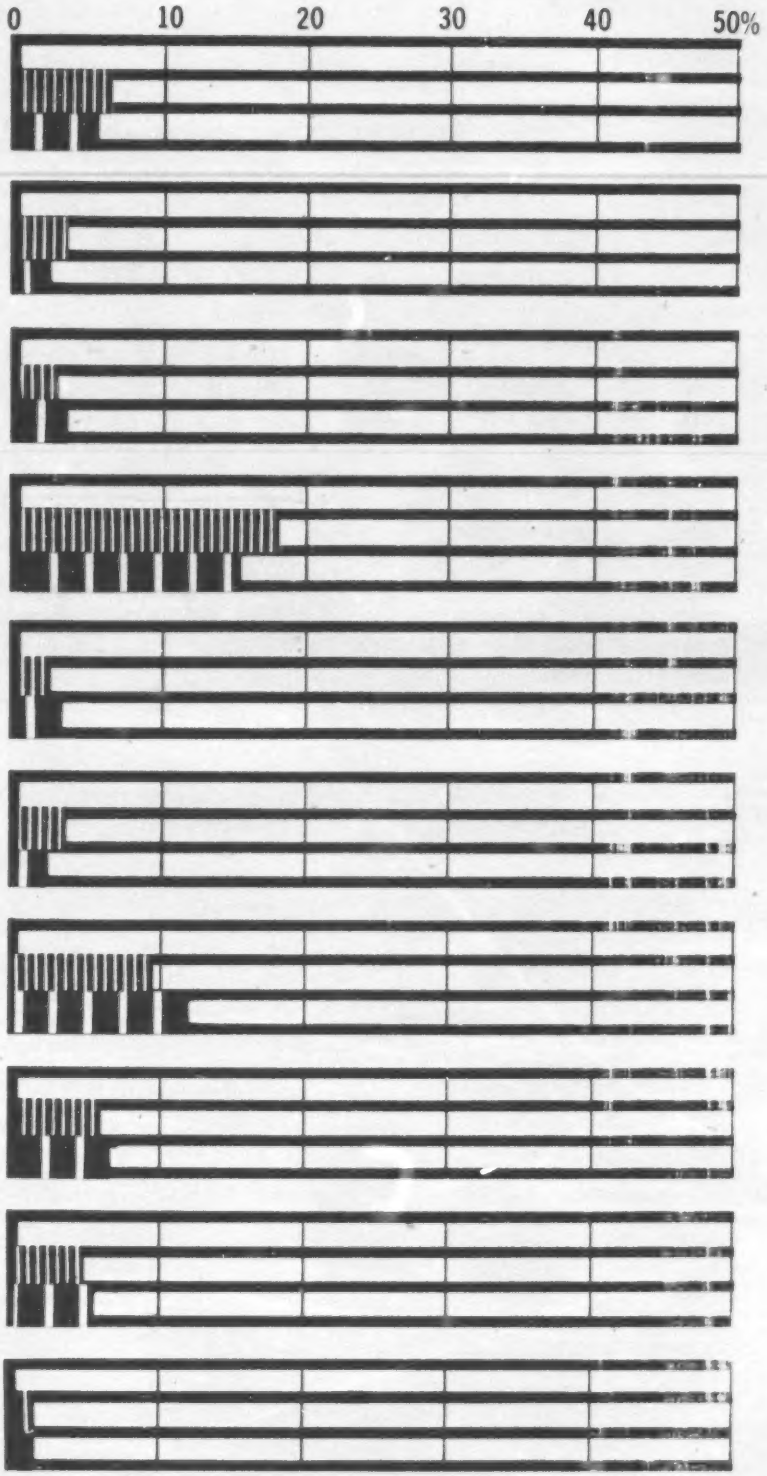
Table 10 on the next page shows the educational majors and first vocational choices which were reported by Illinois Community College freshmen taking the ACT test. The data are shown in percentages and in order of most often reported. Also shown in the table is a comparison with national data for all college and university freshmen taking the ACT test.

TABLE 10

PLANNED EDUCATIONAL MAJORS AND VOCATIONAL CHOICE FIELDS OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN COMPARED TO NATIONAL SAMPLE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FRESHMEN

	Illinois Community College Freshmen		National College and University Freshmen	
	Educational Major	First Voc. Choice	Educational Major	First Voc. Choice
Business & Commerce	18%	18%	15%	15%
Health Professions	18%	18%	18%	19%
Undecided	8%	10%	8%	10%
Education	9%	9%	12%	12%
Trade & Industrial Tech.	6%	7%	2%	3%
Agriculture/Forestry	6%	6%	5%	5%
Community Service	5%	5%	3%	4%
Engineering	5%	4%	6%	6%
Fine & Applied Arts	4%	4%	5%	5%
Social Sciences	4%	4%	7%	7%
Architecture	3%	3%	2%	2%
Computer & Info. Science	3%	3%	2%	2%
Communications	2%	2%	3%	3%
Home Economics	2%	2%	1%	1%
Biological Sciences	2%	1%	3%	2%
Letters (Humanities)	1%	1%	1%	1%
Physical Science	1%	1%	2%	1%
General Studies	2%	0	2%	0
Foreign Languages	1%	0	1%	0
Mathematics	1%	0	1%	1%

Planned Educational Majors



Agric., Forestry, etc.
Local
State * 6%
National 5%

Architecture
Local
State * 3%
National 2%

Biological Sciences
Local
State * 3%
National 3%

Business & Commerce
Local
State * 18%
National 15%

Communications
Local
State * 3%
National 3%

Computer & Info. Sci.
Local
State * 3%
National 2%

Education
Local
State * 9%
National 12%

Engineering
Local
State * 5%
National 6%

Fine & Applied Arts
Local
State * 4%
National 5%

Foreign Languages
Local
State * 1%
National 1%

CHART 7

(Continued)

*Illinois Community College State Composite

Source: Local - Table 3.1; State - Table 3.1

Planned Educational Majors *(Continued)*

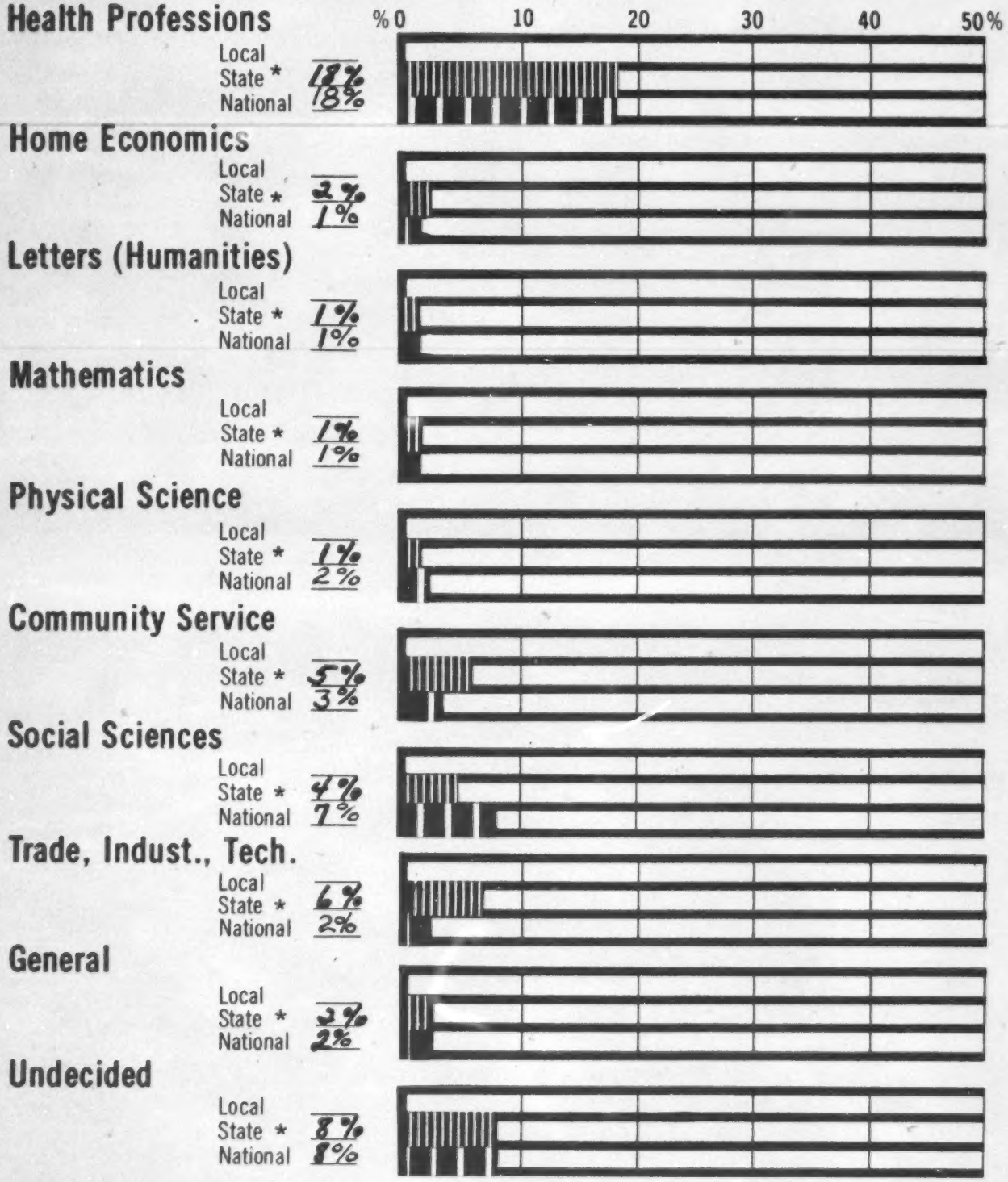


CHART 8

*Illinois Community College State Composite

Source: Local - Table 3.1; State - Table 3.1

WHY STUDENTS CHOSE THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

With the enrollments in postsecondary education leveling off or declining, there is considerable interest in knowing why students choose a particular college to attend. The 1976-77 freshmen enrolled in Illinois public community colleges who took the ACT tests indicated what they considered to be the single most important factor in making a college choice on the profile. Table 11 below shows a comparison of these reponses with 1975-76 and 1974-75. The most frequently indicated factor for choosing the community college was "field of study." Location, tuition cost and type of institution were also frequently mentioned. This analysis indicates that students are choosing the community colleges primarily because they are offering the programs that they are interested in pursuing and secondarily because of lower tuition cost. A location in their own community is the third most important factor.

TABLE 11

COMPARISON OF SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAKING COLLEGE CHOICE BY FALL 1976 FRESHMEN AS COMPARED TO FALL 1974 AND FALL 1975 FRESHMEN IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES ON ACT PROFILE

Factors in Making Choice	Percentage of Students Indicating as Most Important Factor		
	Fall 1974	Fall 1975	Fall 1976
Field of Study	47%	47%	47%
Tuition Cost	21	22%	22%
Location	16	18%	19%
Type of Institution	12	11%	9%
Student Body Composition	2	1%	2%
Enrollment Size	1	1%	1%
Other Activities	1	3%	3%

*Percentages do not add up to 100% which is due to the fact that some of the students listed more than one factor as being most important.

A comparison of factors in making a college choice for the past two years shows that location and student body composition are the factors that increased in importance in making a college choice during 1976. The type of institution is not as important as in previous years.

ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME OF FALL 1976 ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Table 12 shows a summary of the family incomes of 1976-77 freshmen as estimated by the student on the ACT profile. Although 13 percent of the students indicated that they did not know their family incomes and another 22 percent considered this information confidential, the data provided are useful for comparative purposes for the individual community colleges.

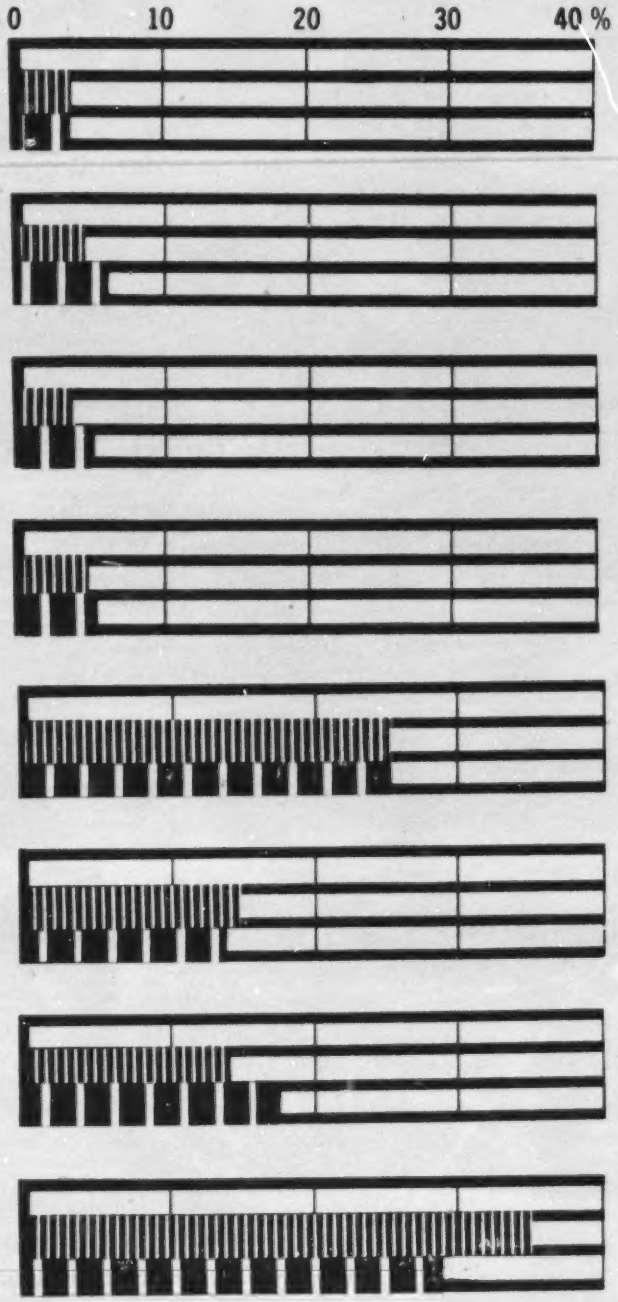
TABLE 12

ESTIMATED FAMILY INCOME OF 1976-77 FRESHMEN ENROLLED IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES AS INDICATED ON THE ACT PROFILE

Estimated Annual Family Income	Number of Students	Percent of all Responding	Percent of Those Indicating Estimated Income	Cumulative Percent of Those Indicating Estimated Income
Less than $ 3,000	565	3%	4%	4%
3,000-5,999	876	4	6	10
6,000-7,499	670	3	5	15
7,500-8,999	839	4	6	21
9,000-11,999	2163	10	16	37
12,000-14,999	2853	14	21	58
15,000-19,999	3009	14	22	80
20,000 and Over	2837	13	20	100%
Subtotal	(13,812)	(65)	100%	---
Considered Confidential	4640			
Do Not Know	2671			
Total	21,123	100%		

The chart on the next page compares the income level of Illinois community college freshmen who took the ACT test with national norms.

Students' Estimated Total Family Income before Taxes



[1] Add the two percentages for the categories ($9,000-$11,999) and ($12,000-$14,999).
[2] On Local data, add the percentages for the categories "Consider Info Confidential" and "No Response."

CHART 9

Source: Local - Table 4.5; State - Table 4.3

*Illinois Community College State Composite

FINANCIAL AID NEEDS

Table 13 shows the comparison of the Fall 1975 Illinois Community College freshmen with Fall 1976 freshmen responding to the ACT item dealing with expected financial aid needed by them to help meet college expenses. Over one-half (53%) of all community college freshmen indicated that they would apply for financial assistance with an additional 57% indicating they expected to work while in college and would like some assistance in locating employment. This indicates a substantial need for college placement services for students who seek part-time work while they are in college in addition to serving the needs of students after they complete their education at the community college.

TABLE 13

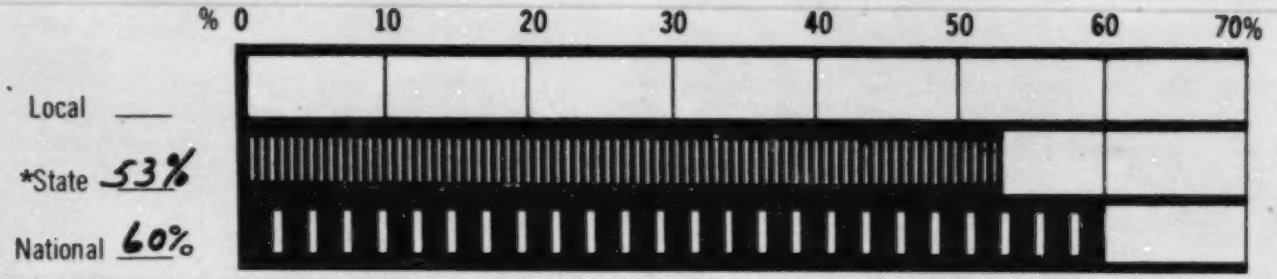
COMPARISON OF FINANCIAL AID NEEDS AND WORK EXPECTATIONS OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1975 FRESHMEN WITH 1976 FRESHMEN AS INDICATED ON THE ACT PROFILE

	1975-76			1976-77		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Expects to Apply for Financial Aid	49%	52%	50%	51%	54%	53%
Expects to Work While in College and Would Like Help Finding Employment	57%	56%	56%	58%	55%	57%

The chart on the next page shows a comparison of the financial needs of Illinois Community College freshmen who took the ACT test with national norms. Although a lower percentage expect to apply for financial aid than the national sample, a higher percentage expect to work while in college and would like help finding employment.

Percent of Students Who Expressed Financial Need

Expect to Apply for Financial Aid



Expect to Work While in College and Would Like Help Finding Employment

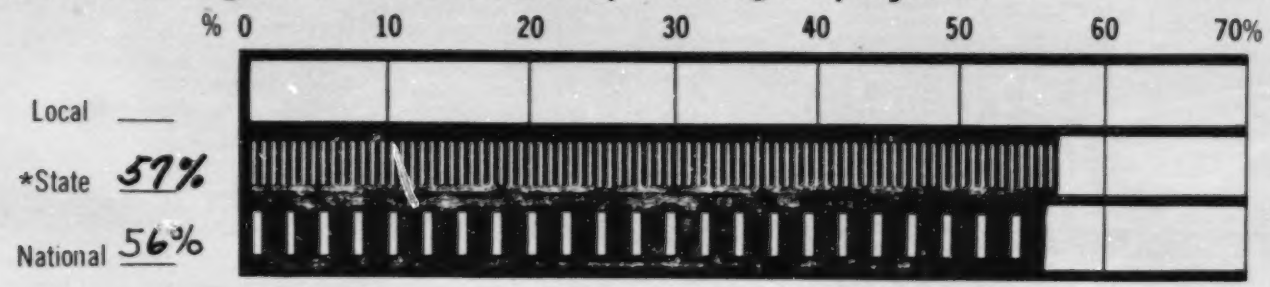


CHART 10

Source: Local - Table 4.5; State - Table 4.3

*Illinois Community College State Composite

ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

BELLEVILLE AREA COLLEGE, 522
2500 Carlyle Road
Belleville, Illinois 62221
Phone: 618-235-2700

BLACK HAWK COLLEGE, 503
6600 - 34th Avenue
Moline, Illinois 61265
Phone: 309-796-1311

BLACK HAWK COLLEGE EAST
P. O. Box 489
Kewanee, Illinois 61443
Phone: 309-853-3381

CARL SANDBURG COLLEGE, 518
P. O. Box 1407
Galesburg, Illinois 61401
Phone: 309-344-2518

CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO, 508
180 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: 312-269-8000

CITY-WIDE COLLEGE
185 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: 312-269-8000

KENNEDY-KING COLLEGE
6800 South Wentworth
Chicago, Illinois 60621
Phone: 312-962-3200

LOOP COLLEGE
64 East Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: 312-269-8000

MALCOLM X COLLEGE
1900 West Van Buren Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612
Phone: 312-942-3000

OLIVE-HARVEY COLLEGE
10001 South Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60628
Phone: 312-568-3700

RICHARD J. DALEY COLLEGE
7500 South Pulaski Road
Chicago, Illinois 60652
Phone: 312-735-3000

HARRY S. TRUMAN COLLEGE
1145 West Wilson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60640
Phone: 312-878-1700

URBAN SKILLS INSTITUTE
3901 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609
Phone: 312-624-7300

WRIGHT COLLEGE
3400 North Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60634
Phone: 312-777-7900

COLLEGE OF DuPAGE, 502
Lambert Road & 22nd Street
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
Phone: 312-858-2800

COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY, 532
19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake, Illinois 60030
Phone: 312-223-6601

DANVILLE JUNIOR COLLEGE, 507
2000 East Main Street
Danville, Illinois 61832
Phone: 217-443-1811

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 509
1700 Spartan Drive
Elgin, Illinois 60120
Phone: 312-697-1000

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 519
Pearl City Road
Freeport, Illinois 61032
Phone: 815-235-6121

ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE, 514
P. O. Box 2400
East Peoria, Illinois 61611
Phone: 309-694-5011

ILLINOIS EASTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGES, 529
233 East Chestnut Street
Olney, Illinois 62450
Phone: 618-393-2982

ILLINOIS EASTERN COLLEGE OF
CONTINUING EDUCATION
R. R. 1
Fairfield, Illinois 62837
Phone: 618-842-3711

LINCOLN TRAIL COLLEGE
R. R. 3
Robinson, Illinois 62454
Phone: 618-544-8657

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE
305 North West Street
Olney, Illinois 62450
Phone: 618-395-4351

WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE
2200 College Drive
Mt. Carmel, Illinois 62863
Phone: 815-262-8641

ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 513
R. R. 1
Oglesby, Illinois 61348
Phone: 815-224-6011

JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE, 530
Route 2
Carterville, Illinois 62918
Phone: 618-985-3741

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1919 North 18th
Quincy, Illinois 62301
Phone: 217-224-6500

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE, 525
1216 Houbolt Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60436
Phone: 815-729-9020

KANKAKEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 520
Box 888
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
Phone: 815-933-9311

KASKASKIA COLLEGE, 501
Shattuc Road
Centralia, Illinois 62801
Phone: 618-532-1981

KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE, 523
Alt and Malta Road
Malta, Illinois 60150
Phone: 815-825-2086

LAKE LAND COLLEGE, 517
S. Route 45
Mattoon, Illinois 61938
Phone: 217-235-3131

LEWIS & CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 536
5800 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, Illinois 62035
Phone: 618-466-3411

LINCOLN LAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 526
Shepherd Road
Springfield, Illinois 62708
Phone: 217-529-7111

McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE, 528
6200 Northwest Highway, Box 415
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
Phone: 815-455-3700

MORAINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 524
10900 South 88th Avenue
Palos Hills, Illinois 60465
Phone: 312-974-4300

MORTON COLLEGE, 527
3801 South Central Avenue
Cicero, Illinois 60650
Phone: 312-656-8000

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 535
7900 North Nagle Avenue
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053
Phone: 312-967-5120

PARKLAND COLLEGE, 505
2400 West Bradley Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
Phone: 217-351-2200

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE, 515
197th & Halsted Streets
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411
Phone: 312-756-3110

REND LAKE COLLEGE, 521
R. F. D. #1
Ina, Illinois 62846
Phone: 618-437-5321

RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 537
100 North Water Street
Decatur, Illinois 62523
Phone: 217-422-8387

ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE, 511
3301 North Mulford Road
Rockford, Illinois 61101
Phone: 815-226-2600

SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE, 506
Route 1
Dixon, Illinois 61021
Phone: 815-288-5511

SHAWNEE COLLEGE, 531
Shawnee College Road
Ullin, Illinois 62992
Phone: 618-634-2242

SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE, 533
R. R. 4
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946
Phone: 618-252-4411

SPOON RIVER COLLEGE, 534
R. R. 1
Canton, Illinois 61520
Phone: 309-647-4645

STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF
EAST ST. LOUIS, 601
417 Missouri Avenue
East St. Louis, Illinois 62201
Phone: 618-875-9100

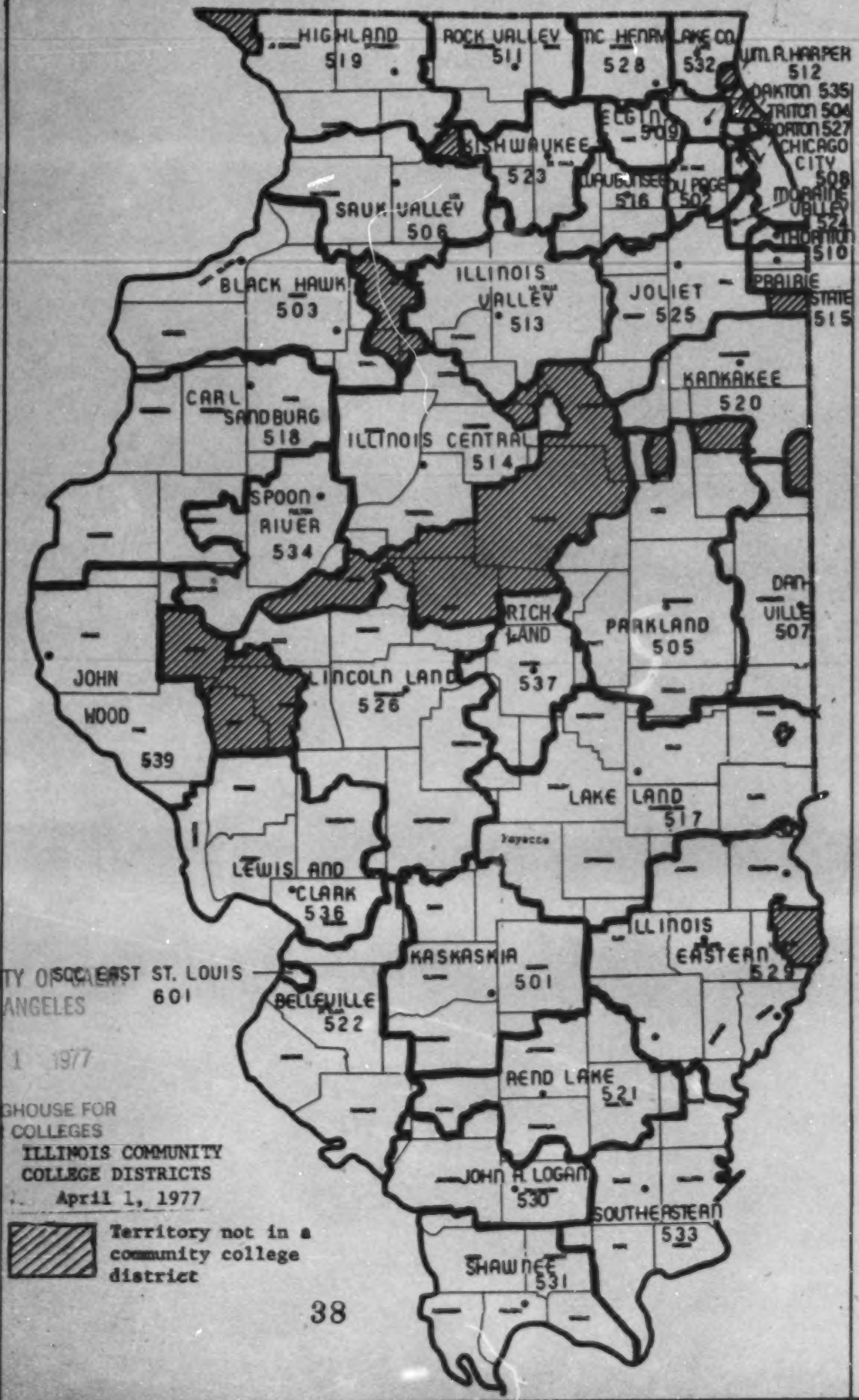
THORNTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 510
50 West 162nd Street
South Holland, Illinois 60473
Phone: 312-596-2000

TRITON COLLEGE, 504
2000 5th Avenue
River Grove, Illinois 60171
Phone: 312-456-0300

WAUBONSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 516
Route 47 at Harter Road
Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554
Phone: 312-466-4811

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE, 512
Algonquin & Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois 60067
Phone: 312-397-3000

1/14/77



UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES
JUL 1 1977
CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICTS

April 1, 1977

Territory not in a community college district